Import of Cotton

437. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is a major importer of cotton in the world;

(b) if so, what is the annual import of cotton during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the crisis of the textile industry is worsening due to import; and

(d) if so, what remedial measure the Government is planning to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) India's cotton import *vis-a-vis* world import trade during the last three years are as under:

(In Thousand Metric ton)

Year	World Import	India's Import	% of World Import
1997-98	5762	32	0.5
1998-99	5441	94	1.7
1999-2000	6079	249	5.7

Source: International Cotton Advisory Committee.

(c) and (d) To retain competitveness in the global market, the domestic textile industry can import cotton freely without any restrictions. The Government has launched the Technology Mission -on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton.